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Human Rights Commission Minutes 01/21/2004

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES-FINAL

January 21, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE

Marlissa Briggett
 Chris Carney
 Chris Deshler
 Kevin McGann
 Nick Minton
 Nancy Rhodes
 Bill Shea

ABSENT

Cecilia Akuffo
 Sheri Baron
 Kim Lam
 Sue McHugh
 Nancy Sweeney
 Jim Webster

Kevin McGann called the meeting of the Human Rights Commission to order at 8:06 PM at the Jefferson-Cutter House.

CITIZEN'S OPEN FORUM

There were no citizens present for the Open Forum.

REVIEW MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the December minutes with these corrections:

- Pg 1: DISCUSSION TOPICS: A): in reference to the vote, change to (8-0, 1 abstain)
 Also: in reference to Christine Deshler made a motion..., change to Kevin McGann made a motion...
- Pg 2: D): in place of Kevin McGann will update, change to Christine Deshler.
- Pg 2: NEW BUSINESS: Website info: Replace the sentence "All Commissioners please get to Jim with content for the website" with "Jim Webster requests that Commissioners get content for website to him".

COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

There were no complaints or incidents reported.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Kevin McGann nominated Bill Shea for Chair and Christine Deshler 2nd the motion. All Commissioners voted unanimously for the motion. Bill Shea is the new AHRC Chair for 2004.

Kevin McGann nominated Nick Minton for Vice Chair and Marlissa Briggett 2nd the motion. All Commissioners voted unanimously for the motion. Nick Minton is the new AHRC Vice Chair for 2004.

The Commissioners thanked Kevin McGann for his work over the past year. Kevin McGann will run tonight's meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education: There was nothing to report this month from the sub-committee. Marlissa Briggett informed the Commission that the High School is having an MLK celebration performance on January 28, 2004 at 12:30PM. She recommends it highly.
- Dialogues/Book Groups: Marlissa Briggett reported that the sub-committee is in the initial planning stages for a dialogue on "Same sex marriage" during late march. The theme would be centered on the reinforcement of the AHRC position written in the Advocate. It will be a panel-based dialogue including a gay couple (family), clergy members, legislators, and attorneys (Mary Benago).

- Rapid Response/ Publicity: There was nothing to report.
- Status of Website: Kevin McGann reported that Kevin Strange can add the AHRC to the Town Hall website page for a first page (simple info) either by 1) submit basic information to him and he'll create or 2) submit Jim Webster's work. Kevin McGann recommends that Commissioners should review Jim's website. Bill Shea wants this to be an agenda item for the February meeting. At this point, the next meeting date was discussed and several Commissioners cannot attend. Mary Ann Sullivan will send an e-mail to get a head count on changing the meeting to February 11, 2004 and check on room availability.
- Status of Reappointments by John Worden: There have still been no reappointments made by Mr. Worden. Bill Shea will try to nudge the reappointments along. Mary Ann Sullivan will check with the clerk's office to see if Mr. Worden passed in reappointment paperwork. It was further discussed by Commissioners and recommended by Christine Deshler to meet with appointing bodies to develop relationships. The Commissioners also agreed that as a group they should meet with the new town manager sometime early April to May.

REVIEW STRATEGIC PLAN

This is postponed until next meeting. Make it an agenda item for the next meeting.

A reminder to all Commissioners to please review the Strategic Plan prior to the meeting and have ideas/comments ready.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin McGann commented in regards to the Advocate Guest Article that he hadn't heard any comments. Nancy Rhoads heard some positive reaction to the article. Marlissa Briggett and Nancy Rhoads are working on a follow up article regarding personal couples and how gay/same sex marriage helps strengthen the institution of marriage.

Kevin McGann will update the annual report and AHRC chronology. Marlissa Briggett will e-mail it to Kevin. The Town Manager's office wants the Annual Report and the Chronology is for the Finance Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.